Restriction on viewers on TV after CAS

1338. SHRIMATI VIPLOVE THAKUR: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether after the introduction of CAS related cable TV, the viewer will still have the freedom to view TV with the help of a normal antenna; if so, the number of channels that would be available to him in that case;

(b) whether the CAS related cable arrangement restricts a viewer's right to have a free flow of information at least from State run channels; and

(c) if so, the steps taken to address the situation?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYARANJAN DASMUNSI): (a) Yes, Sir. Implementation of Conditional Access System (CAS) will not affect availability through normal antenna of all T.V. channels transmitted terrestrially by Doordarshan.

(b) and (c) No, Sir. Instead CAS has provided the consumers a choice of channels and pay for them only. Further as per the notifications issued under Section 8 of Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995 every cable operator is to retransmit the DD channels namely DD Rajya Sabha. DD Urdu, DD National, DD News, DD Bharati, DD Sports, Gyan Darshan and Lok Sabha TV channel in their network. In addition to these channels; the cable operator has also to carry one regional DD channel of the State in which the cable operator is providing his cable network services.

Need to install VLPT in Ransar, H.P.

.1339. SHRI RAJNITI PRASAD: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government had approved a plan for installation at HPT in Amritsar for improvement at coverage of Doordarshan programmes;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government will fulfill the long pending demand of people of Ransar valley in Shimla district of Himachal Pradesh for installation of VLPT to increase the coverage of Doordarshan programmes as this area is hilly and rural;

(d) if so, the details thereof and by when it may be installed; and

(e) if not, why Government is ignoring the sentiments of the people of Ransar valley for not installing the VLPT for seeing the Doordarshan programmes?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYARANJAN DASMUNSI): (a) and (b) The 10 kW HPT at Amritsar was installed in September, 1973. Scheme for upgradation of this HPT to a 20 kW HPT and establishment of a DD2 HPT at Amritsar with 300 M tower at new site was approved in October 1999 (as part of J&K Special Plan) for expansion of DD coverage in the border areas of Punjab.

(c) to (e) The areas uncovered by terrestrial transmission alongwith rest of the country, have been provided with multi channel TV coverage through free to air DTH service of Doordarshan, which was launched in December, 04. It is possible to receive DTH signals